WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Virus infected agriculture farms

*825. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team from Central Government studied the problems of damage being caused to agrciultural crops by infected aquaculture farms; and

(b) the steps proposed to seal infected aquaculture farms in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir. There are no reports of damage caused to agricultural crops by infected acquacultural farms. The diseases which have infected shrimps in some farms are host-specific and, therefore, there is no possibility of damage to agricultural crops.

(b) Question does not arise.

Problems faced by workers in Aralam Agricultural Farm in Kerala

*826. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present state of affairs in Aralam Agricultural Farm in Kanur district of Kerala with regard to the problems faced by the workers and employees;

(b) the main demands raised by the workers and employees' organisations; and

(c) the response of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The workers of Central State Farm (CSF) Aralam (Kerala) of State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) a Public Sector Undertaking under the control of Minisrty of Agriculture, went on strike with effect from 19-4-1993 which was called off on 26-8-1993. At present, work at the farm is going smoothly.

(b) The following main demands were raised by the workers at the time of commencement of the strike:

(1) To pay the I.D.A. pay scale to regular labour and head workers working in CSF, Aralam, with retrospective effect from 1-1-1989, according to each period of amendment in pay scale.

OR

To declare that regular labour/head workers in the State Farm are entitled to get the pay scale of Rs. 720-1000 as recommended by the State Government of Kerala in respect of workers working in Farms controlled by the State Government.

(2) Uniform pay scale for labour working in Cenral State Farm Aralam.

(3) To appoint casual workers as permanent workers.

(4) To appoint Head workers as Group "D" employees.

(5) To stop the mismanagement of Central State Farm, Aralam.

(c) The demands of the workers had been considered by the Management in its Board Meeting held on 17-3-1993 but were not found acceptable. Later on, the strike was called off on the intervention of Chief Minister of Kerala on whose suggestion a Committee was constituted undner the Chairmanship of Labour Commissioner with representatives of Union and Management. Some advance was paid to the workers on the advice of Chief Minister before Onam festival alongwith bonus.

In a meeting of this Committee held on 4-11-1993 it was recommended that the Management of SFCI should formulate a motivation/incentive scheme for increasing production by involving labour. Accordingly management formulated an incentive/motivation scheme which was considered by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 27-9-1994, which decided that advice of the National Productivity Council on this scheme may also be taken before it is considered by the Board. This issue